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Letter dated 5 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 28 June 2001 from His Excellency Mr. Monie R. Captan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, relating to initiatives taken and measures being implemented by the Government of Liberia towards complying with Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lami **Kawah**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to present my compliments and to submit herein a second report on initiatives taken and measures being implemented by the Government of Liberia towards complying with Security Council resolution 1343 (2001), especially paragraph 2 thereof.

In addition to the compliance measures earlier announced and implemented by the Government as mentioned in our first report of 11 April 2001, and notwithstanding the subsequent imposition of the present sanctions on Liberia, the Government of Liberia has continued to maintain, enforce and institutionalize all measures specifically required by resolution 1343 (2001) and those voluntarily assumed by the Government of Liberia as necessary to full and clear compliance with the demands of the Security Council covering the following areas:

Demands stated in paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of resolution 1343 (2001)

1.0 Pursuant to its policy of disengagement, the Government of Liberia to date remains completely and totally disengaged with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The policy of disengagement was adopted on 12 January 2001 due to misunderstanding of the Government's contacts with both the RUF and other parties to the Sierra Leonean conflict, which contacts were open and publicly maintained under the mandate of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and for the sole objective of promoting regional peace and stability.

1.1 The Liberian-Sierra Leonean land border has also remained closed since March 2001, and is daily patrolled by security personnel for effective monitoring. The Government is pleased to report that besides the arrest of seven diamond smugglers, which was mentioned in our first report, there has been no other material incident reported by our patrols.

1.2 The point has to be made that although the closure of the border is not mandated by resolution 1343 (2001), the Government thought it appropriate as further evidence of its stated policy of disengagement. Even more importantly, the Government has asked the United Nations and ECOWAS to patrol and monitor its closed border with Sierra Leone and to maintain a presence at all other ports of entry.

1.3 It is hoped that the continued implementation of (a) the policy of disengagement, (b) the closure of the border and (c) the request for international patrol and monitoring of the closed border, as well as the absence of any evidence of the Government's contact with RUF, direct or indirect, should be enough evidence that the Government has severed all links with RUF. Additionally, the Government is available and remains willing to consider any suggestions from the United Nations as to what additional measure(s) should be taken to prove once and for all the reality of the non-existence of links or contacts with RUF.

1.4 With respect to the Expulsion Order, especially the documentation of the actions taken thereunder, the Government of Liberia acknowledged the concern expressed in your first report in respect of what you referred to as the untidy handling of the expulsion of RUF members, especially Sam Bockarie. However, and notwithstanding the unfounded speculations and rumours that this may have generated, the Government reiterates and reaffirms its earlier statement that Sam Bockarie did indeed leave Liberia and is no longer in the country.

1.5 It should be noted that the expulsion of Mr. Sam Bockarie and others was predicated upon the Government's policy of disengagement, which was announced and implemented one month before the adoption of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001). Under the circumstances, the Government was not under obligation to show documentary evidence of the departures because the expulsion was not a demand of the United Nations at the time. It should be further noted that it is not unusual in this region for daily border crossings to occur without immigration formalities.

1.6 The Government wishes to bring to your attention that resolution 1343 (2001), as adopted, does not require the arrest or extradition of any member of RUF; nor does it impose a requirement for the expulsion of any RUF member to a particular country or a designated location.

1.7 The Government would also like to solicit the attention of all persons concerned to the substantive issue of where Mr. Bockarie presently resides, as opposed to dwelling on past procedural inadequacy in documentation of his departure from Liberia. In this regard, the Government invites the Security Council (a) to investigate in any way possible the rumours and unverified reports (seemingly adopted by incorporation in your first report under resolution 1343 (2001)) of Mr. Bockarie's continued presence in Liberia, and (b) to request the assistance of Member States in ascertaining the possible presence of Sam Bockarie in their territories.

Demands stated in paragraph 2 (c) of resolution 1343 (2001)

2.0 The Government continues to maintain the ban placed on the importation of all un-certificated rough diamonds from countries with certification regimes. The ban on the exportation of Liberian diamonds also remains in full force and effect both in Liberia and worldwide by virtue of a public notice served on all participants in the international diamond industry, including the High Diamond Council.

2.1 The ban on import of un-certificated rough diamonds and the related ban on the export of Liberian diamonds are being vigorously enforced by customs personnel from the Ministry of Finance and security officers of the Ministry of Justice who are stationed at every port of entry.

2.2 In addition to putting into place a number of control measures, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy has distributed to all diamond dealers in Liberia, and received acknowledgement thereto, official circulars concerning the bans on export and import of diamonds, and establishing appropriate reporting requirements on continual dealings in diamonds. The Government hereby confirms that licensed dealers are continuing the purchase of diamonds, but all

diamonds being bought are stored in vaults that are subject to spot inspection by inspectors from the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy at any time determined by the said Ministry.

2.3 Meanwhile, the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy has drafted a certification regime in keeping with the demands of the United Nations and based upon the Kimberley process, wherein a centralized export process is being put into place to involve the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Liberia. The ultimate objective of this system is to enhance transparency and legitimacy in the trade of diamonds in Liberia.

Demands stated in paragraph 2 (e) of resolution 1343 (2001)

3.0 As was detailed in our first report, the Government has de-registered and effectively closed the Liberian Air Registry. The Civil Aviation Authority of Liberia has begun the formulation and establishment of a new system of civil aircraft registration. The programme is based on the Gate System and is designed to ensure strict conformity with annex 7 to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation. A draft of the proposed registry has been completed and will be reviewed by a team of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) technicians who are due to visit Liberia shortly consequent to the visit of the Minister of Transport to ICAO headquarters, which was detailed in our first report. While the Ministry of Transport is continuing to engage ICAO in partnership, the Government of Liberia would like to reiterate its earlier appeal to the United Nations for assistance in this direction.

3.1 The Government is further pleased to report that misunderstanding over Liberia's request to manage its airspace within the framework of the Roberts Flight Information Region (RFIR) has been resolved through consultations at the technical level during an informal coordinating meeting held in Dakar under the aegis of the ICAO regional office (see enclosure). The Memorandum of Understanding containing all the points of agreement and understanding has been drafted by the RFIR secretariat and is soon to be signed.

Conclusion

4.0 The impact of the current sanctions regime on the Liberian nation should not be underestimated. Their effects have not only been economic hardships and diplomatic isolation, but extend to endangering the country's national security and creating political instability. The records will show that this type of sanctions regime, which, among other things, effectively restricts all foreign travel of a sovereign leader and an entire national leadership, especially on the basis provided, is rare, if not unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. The psychological sense of international rejection and insensitivity represented by these sanctions may take a generation to heal.

4.1 It is the ardent hope of the Government of Liberia that as you review the measures reported herein, as well as other information you may wish to consider, you will take note of the humanitarian situation and other effects created by the sanctions, particularly in the light of the concluding statement of your first report on Liberia, in which you urged the Security Council to remain

engaged in Liberia. This country has experienced more than its share of suffering, and its people continue to be plagued by war, lack of basic social services, unemployment and a ruined economy.

(*Signed*) Monie R. **Captan**
Minister

cc: H.E. Lansana Kouyate
Executive Secretary
Economic Community of West African States
Abuja

H.E. Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General
Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa

Enclosure

The Roberts Flight Information Region

18 May 2001

The Director of Civil Aviation
Ministry of Transport
Broad Street
Monrovia, Liberia

Subject: Draft annex to the Letter of Agreement between Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre and Roberts Approach Control

I have the honour to forward the draft annex to the Letter of Agreement between the Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre and Roberts Approach Control, in accordance with the conclusions of the informal meeting on coordination of air traffic management within the Roberts Flight Information Region held under the auspices of the ICAO regional office in Dakar.

I should be grateful if your Air Traffic Services Unit could submit its comments as soon as possible, for an early signature of this letter of agreement.

(*Signed*) El Hadj Boubacar **Bah**
Secretary-General

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Draft annex to the Letter of Agreement between Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre and Roberts Approach Control

1. Introduction

1.1 The following procedure is the result of an informal coordination meeting on air traffic management within the Roberts Flight Information Region (FIR) under the auspices of the ICAO regional office, Dakar.

1.2 The working group, which is composed of representatives of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the FIR secretariat, was mandated to find technical solutions acceptable to all parties without degrading the integrity of the Roberts FIR.

2. Transfer of responsibility

2.1 Between Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre and Roberts Approach Control Unit

2.2 The following reporting points:

Matru
Tekto
Ritam
Ponka

Have been designated as transfer of responsibility points for the provision of air traffic services between Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre and the Roberts

Approach Control Unit in the Liberian sector of the Roberts traffic management area (TMA).

2.3 Responsibility for the provision of air traffic services shall be transferred to the accepting unit at the following points:

Air traffic services routes	*Transfer of control*	*Transfer of communication*
B614	Matru	Matru
B600	Tekto	Tekto
B600	Ritam	Ritam
G852	Ponka	Ponka

2.4 The Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre shall provide clearances and coordinate traffic to the Roberts Approach Control Unit entering Liberian airspace at the above points.

Note 1. If transfer of responsibility is required at points other than those specified in paragraph 2.3 above, these shall be coordinated individually for each flight.

Note 2. Arriving aircraft at Robertsfield or Monrovia shall be cleared by the Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre to descend to and be released to the Roberts Approach Control at the above-mentioned points.

3. Transfer of communication

3.1 Aircraft shall be instructed to establish communication with the accepting unit over the transfer of responsibility point.

3.2 Frequencies for transfer of communication are as follows:

Roberts ATCC: VHF 128.1 Mhz
Roberts APC: VHF 124.5 Mhz
VHF 118.3 Mhz

4. Derogations

4.1 Departure from the procedures specified in this Letter of Agreement shall not be permitted without prior coordination on a case-by-case basis and only in exceptional circumstances.

4.2 Any deviations from these provisions that arise due to an emergency or are applied to ensure the safety of air traffic shall immediately be notified to the other air traffic services units concerned and shall be terminated as soon as the circumstances that caused the deviation cease to exist.

5. Authorized signatories

For Roberts Approach Control Unit For Roberts Air Traffic Control Centre